



Journeys

The Newsletter of the Hispanic Theological Initiative vol. 3, no. 1

Advancing Theological Reflection Through Hispanic Eyes

HTI: A Beacon of Hope

On July 7, 1999 at 8am, I walked into Adams house, officially the new offices of the Hispanic Theological Initiative at Princeton Theological Seminary, but at that point only a room full of taped-up boxes, two phone lines, a fax machine, a copier, two MAC computers, and 12 pages of instructions from the former assistant, Lizzette Oquendo Cardoza. Talk about strange beginnings! Although this was a stressful way to begin as the Assistant Director of HTI, it was not my main concern, for sometimes life brings us these unexpected circumstances as part of our daily existence. No, the nagging sensation in the pit of my stomach came from my decision to become an administrator instead of a pastor. Here I was a recent graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary, not pursuing a call to the pastorate. I felt as if I had let down my community and God, and was hiding out at HTI.

But this perception changed radically as my responsibilities evolved at HTI. I began to see that excellent administration is connected to the pastorate because it flows best when done from a place where you love, care, and give your best to the people you are serving. I soon realized that preaching on Sunday morning was not the only way to serve God and community. I learned instead that it is about using my God-given talents to help the people I am serving to achieve their goals. I learned that it was and is about making tough decisions and standing by those decisions, no matter what. It was and is about having a voice, and using it for the good of the community. It was and is about not taking criticism personally, and giving up when times get tough. It was and is about persevering and growing in the midst of adversity.

*"Like a Tree
Planted by Streams
of Water..."*

As part of the leadership team of HTI since 1999 and now its director, I soon realized that although HTI had then been in existence for 3 years, although it had been financially supported by the Pew Charitable Trusts with a \$3.3 million grant, and although it had helped graduate over **10** doctoral awardees who had written numerous articles and published **4** books, this growth had been under adverse conditions. Adverse because even though it felt as if progress had been made, the demographics of the academy still showed that Latinos were greatly underrepresented in the faculties and in the student bodies of schools of theology and university departments of religion. Now 4 years later, HTI has helped graduate another **15** doctoral awardees, and **6** more of their books have been published and many more articles have been written. And yet for all that, most schools do not have Latinos on their faculties and only a few institutions have one, and a handful have two. This does not equate with the census reports indicating that the Latino population is now the largest minority in the United States. Furthermore, the education provided to Latina/o leaders who attend seminaries and universities is diminished because the curriculum typically does not include Latino theology that deals with the most pressing issues and experiences of the communities these leaders serve.

Yet for all of these bleak statistics, those of us who believe in, and support the HTI, see HTI as a beacon of hope. HTI resembles the tree in Psalm 1 verse 3, "planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever it does prospers." Like this tree, HTI is putting down very deep roots and enriching the academy with multilingual and scholarly voices that come from a myriad of ethnic communities. As stated in our grant proposal, HTI is not just a scholarship

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program, but also a mentoring program. A mentoring program that has offered, and will continue to offer, the academic, religious and civic communities, well-trained Latinos and Latinas scholars who are committed to service and to each other, as well as to the Church.

Although it has taken time and will continue to do so, we are on our way to becoming a significant voice in North American theology, as evidenced in the monographs and articles that have been appearing recently. These voices can no longer be underrepresented in the academy. The time has come for these publications to be a part of library holdings of theological and religious institutions. It is also necessary for all North American theologians to at least have a basic understanding of the significant contributions that Latino theology has made, and continues to make, to the academy and to the Church.

We invite you to help us get the word out about the HTI, and in persevering and growing in the midst of adversity. You can do this by visiting our website www.htiprogram.org and familiarizing yourself with our scholars' monographs, asking for their availability at your institution's library, and by including these voices in your own research, writing, preaching, and lectures. In opening your mind and spirit to these new scholarly voices, I am convinced that your perception will be as radically transformed as mine continues to be.

—Joanne Rodríguez, Director, HTI

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¡Familia!

May these beautiful innocents nurture your desire to do more, thereby following the noble examples set forth by our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Osman Eli Ruano, son of Norman and Maritza Ruano, was born on February 6th



2003. The very proud *Papi* foresees a future Latino sociologist in the making.

On November 10th 2002, Chris and Allison Tirres welcomed **Eloisa** into their lives. The future professor and his wife are learning much from this little one.



Upcoming Events

SUMMER WORKSHOP

July 18-23, 2003

Princeton Theological Seminary
Princeton, NJ

Workshops:

- *Computer Technology*: Jeff Gorman and Dr. Loida Martell-Otero
- *How to Get Published*: Dr. Miguel de la Torre
- *Research*: Kate Skrebutenas
- *Measuring Up: Success in the Academy from the Inside Out*: Dr. Jean-Pierre Ruiz
- *Spirituality*: Renata Furst
- *Teaching*: Dr. Roberto Pazmiño
- *Writing Effective Grant Proposals*: Dr. Lucinda Huffaker
- *Writers' Workshops*: Patrick Alexander, Ulrike Guthrie and Dr. Robert Ratcliff

Lecture:

"Mapping Public Theology"

Dr. Benjamín Valentín

Responses by Dr. Catherine Keller

and Dr. Luis Rivera-Pagán

LATINAS IN THEOLOGY

August 15-17, 2003

New York, NY

Dr. Elizabeth Conde-Frazier, speaker

WRITERS WEEKEND

September 12-14, 2003

Princeton Theological Seminary

Princeton, NJ

WRITERS WORKSHOP

January 9-16, 2003

Princeton Theological Seminary

Princeton, NJ

Regional Conferences

The West regional conference, titled **Hispano-Jews of the American Southwest: A Face Obscured**, was held at Brite Divinity School in Fort Worth, Texas. Since the 1970's, numerous Hispanics in the Southwest have claimed descent from Sephardic crypto-Jews who settled in that area centuries ago to escape the Inquisition. This rarely discussed topic was presented in lectures given by Carlos M. Larralde Ph.D. (UCLA), and by Seth Ward, Ph.D., University of Denver. Carla Elena Roland Guzmán, HTI 2003-2004 Special Mentoring awardee, and Gregory Cuéllar, HTI 2003-2004 Doctoral Renewal awardee, responded to Larralde and Ward, respectively. The event was coordinated by Gregory Cuéllar, with the help of Carla Elena Roland Guzmán, Jorge Aquino, and Joseph de León (both HTI 2003-2004 Special Mentoring awardees).

For the Eastern regional conference held at Boston College, the Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Conde-Frazier, professor at Claremont School of Theology, and Richard Rodríguez, noted Mexican-American author, presented lectures on **Census 2000: Culture, Identity, and Globalization**. The HTI community in the region proposed the topic of Census 2000 as a way of engaging the most recent statistics about the presence of Latinos/as in the USA. Gabriel Salguero, 2003-2004 HTI Special Mentoring awardee, and Néstor Medina, 2002-2003 HTI Special Mentoring awardee responded to Conde-Frazier and Rodríguez, respectively. María Teresa Dávila, together with her fellow HTI 2002-2003 Special Mentoring awardees, Rady Roldán and Angel Santiago, ably coordinated the event.

Dis-covering the Silences: The Latin American Religious Bibliographical Project

There is always something new and important happening at HTI. This year, after hearing concerns from our HTI mentors and awardees regarding the voicelessness of Latina/o scholarship on their exam lists, we are elated to announce **Dis-covering the Silences: The Latin American Religious Bibliographical Project**. The primary goal of this project is to help HTI mentors and awardees have accessibility to a particular list of resources for comprehensive exams. The second goal of this project is for this list to make its way into the U.S. Academy where Spanish is not considered a primary scholarly language, and where Latin American scholarship is absent from most doctoral programs' curricula and from their respective doctoral exams' bibliographies.

Dis-covering the Silences: The Latin American Religious Bibliographical Project is a way for HTI, as well as many US Latina/o and non-Latina/o students, to engage Latin American scholarship in order to construct broader and more inclusive points of view, theories, paradigms and analysis.

We are excited about this Project and believe that once we launch this effort, many institutions will want to use

Nuestra gente en acción

West Regional conference gathering at Brite Divinity School, and editors Ulrike Guthrie and Renata Furst (HTI 1999-2000 Dissertation awardee), at the annual AAR/SBL meeting in Toronto, holding the Fall 2002 issue of *Perspectivas: Occasional Papers*.

our list and support the Project. You can help us now with Phase I of the project by sending us lists for the comprehensive exams in your present institution. We ask that you especially list the sources in Latin American studies you have found necessary to add to the list of texts used in comprehensive exams at North

American institutions. For submission of lists and/or questions concerning this Project, please contact our research directors Hjamil Martínez (libertadsiempre1@hotmail.com), and Manuel J. Mejido (mjmejido@hotmail.com). In advance, HTI thanks you for your endorsement of this Project.

HTI BOOK PRIZE

Innovation is something the HTI program seeks on a constant basis, and last year's inauguration of the Book Prize proved to be a fruitful incursion into a territory previously unknown to us. This year's prize once again gave evidence of the literary and scholarly talents of several worthy Latina/o authors who gave their insight into a myriad of compelling topics, and it is with great pleasure that we announce this year's winner. Dr. Benjamín Valentín, author of *Mapping Public Theology: Beyond Culture, Identity, and Difference*, has been awarded this year's Book Prize. In addition to a monetary award, Dr. Valentín will give a lecture on the topic of the book during HTI's annual Summer Workshop at Princeton Theological Seminary. The award ceremony, lecture, and book-signing event will take place July 19th.

Dr. Valentín, of Puerto Rican heritage, is currently Assistant Professor of Theology and Culture at

Andover Newton Theological School in Newton Centre, Massachusetts. His teaching and research interests are in contemporary theology and culture, constructive theology, the relation of religion and theology to American public life, and liberation theology.

Mapping Public Theology: Beyond Culture, Identity and Difference presents a bold and far-reaching argument for a basic shift in the agenda of the Hispanic/Latino theology in general. The work proposes that it is time for Hispanic/Latino theology to move beyond the essential work of affirming Hispanic cultural identity and popular religion, to move into a broader coalition or alliance of liberation theologies. Valentín presents this argument in such depth and detail that the book could very well become a landmark in the field, perhaps reframing basic issues of theological methodology for the next generation of Hispanic and Latino/a theologians.



News Flash

We congratulate **Dr. Eduardo Fernández**, HTI 1997-1998 Post-doctoral awardee, upon his recent tenure-ship as Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology and Ministry at Jesuit School of Theology, Berkeley.

Carla Elena Roland Guzmán, HTI 2001-2002 Doctoral, 2002-2003 Doctoral Renewal, and 2003-2004 Special Mentoring awardee, was ordained in October in the Catedral Episcopal San Juan Bautista.

Rady Roldán Figueroa, HTI awardee from 1998 to date, presented a paper entitled "*The Ecclesiology of a Sixteenth Century Refugee Church: The Case of the Confesión de Fe Cristiana (1559/60)*" at the annual meeting of the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference in Dallas. Rady has been invited to submit this paper for publication by the editors of the *Sixteenth Century Journal*.

Dr. Suzanne Hoferkamp, HTI 2001-2002 Dissertation year awardee, was a respondent at a leadership conference at the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago. Her response to "Location and Vocation" will be printed in the journal *Currents in Theology and Mission*.

At the annual meeting of AAR/SBL held in Toronto, **Dr. Michelle González**, HTI 1998-1999 Doctoral, and 1999-2000 Special Mentoring awardee, presided over the Latina/o Religion, Culture & Society Group's presentation on "Race and Liberation: Commentaries on Andrés Guerrero's A Chicano Theology."

Also at the AAR/SBL meeting, **Christopher Tirres**, HTI 1998-2000 Doctoral, 2000-2001 Special Mentoring, and 2003-2004 Dissertation awardee, spoke on "Liberation in the Latina/o

Context: Reassessing Guerrero's A Chicano Theology."

Rev. Dr. Raúl Gómez, HTI 1999-2000 Dissertation awardee, and 2003-2004 mentor, received full professorship, as Professor of Systematic Studies at Sacred Heart School of Theology, where he is also Vice-Rector and Director of Hispanic Studies.

Abingdon Press presented *Introduction to Christian Theology*, co-authored by past HTI director and 1997-1998 Dissertation awardee, **Dr. Zaida Maldonado Pérez**, and HTI's former executive director, **Dr. Justo González**.

Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc. announced the publication of *Faith Formation and Popular Religion: A Tejana Approach*, written by **Dr. Anita de Luna**, HTI 1999-2000 Dissertation awardee.

2003-2004 Awardees

We are proud to announce this year's scholarship and mentoring awardees who represent eight countries including Puerto Rico. They are comprised of Roman Catholics and Protestants from 11 denominations. They also represent 17 different seminaries and universities across the United States.

Doctoral Studies Awardees

Sammy G. Alfaro
Tommy Ayala Casarez
Neomi D. DeAnda
Juan Escarfuller
Cristina García-Alfonso
Cecilia González-Andrieu
Jacqueline M. Hidalgo

Doctoral Renewal Awardees

These scholars were awardees for the 2002-2003 academic year
Allan Johnson-Taylor
Norman E. Ruano
Carmelo Santos-Rolón

Special Mentoring Awardees

These scholars have entered their examination year. This award will allow them to work with an HTI mentor throughout the 2003-2004 academic year.

Jorge A. Aquino
Gregory Lee Cuéllar
Joseph De León
Thomas Vincent Flores
Francisco Javier Goitía-Padilla
Angel F. Méndez, OP
Santiago O. Piñón, Jr.
Mayra Rivera Rivera
Carla Elena Roland Guzmán
Gabriel A. Salguero

Dissertation Year Awardees

Socorro Castañeda
Mereides Delgado
Michael Lee
Armando J. Rodríguez, Jr.
Ruben Rosario Rodríguez
Christopher Tirres

WE CELEBRATE OUR NEW DOCTORS

It is with *mucho gusto* that we announce the successful dissertation defense of several HTI awardees:

Dr. Theresa L. Torres, O.S.B., HTI 2001-2002 Dissertation awardee, assistant professor of religious studies at Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas.

Dr. Jesús Rodríguez, HTI 2002-2003 Dissertation awardee, successfully passed his dissertation defense at Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary.

Dr. Nora Lozano-Díaz, HTI 1997-1998 Dissertation awardee, is assistant professor of theology at the Hispanic Baptist Theological School in San Antonio, Texas.

Dr. Hjamil Martínez, HTI 2002-2003 Dissertation awardee, is the Lilly Visiting Scholar in Religion and Southwestern and Mexican Studies at Austin College in Sherman, Texas.

Dr. Leopoldo Sánchez, HTI 2002-2003 Dissertation awardee, was also ordained shortly after obtaining his Ph.D. confirmation, in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

THE POWER OF HTI CONNECTIONS

The weekend of Martin Luther King Jr. Day I was returning to Union Theological Seminary after attending my cousin's wedding in Ponce, Puerto Rico. In one of the small shops in Luis Muñoz Marín Airport was Dr. Luis Rivera-Pagán. How did I know it was him? Simple: HTI. I met Rivera-Pagán at one of our annual meetings. Talk about networking! We were scheduled to be on the same plane. We talked, and now he's a reader for one of my comprehensive exams for fall 2003. Behold, the power of HTI connections. Who needs AT&T?

St. Patrick's Day weekend, March 14-16, 2003: a weekend I will never forget. HTI was holding its regional meeting for the East at Boston College. I love these meetings. It's a great time to catch up with all other scholarship recipients and talk about their programs and work. Also, the opportunity for the exchange of information presents itself throughout the event, especially bibliographical data (thanks, Mayra - you're a bibliographical fountain). Yet, this one was particularly important for me. I was granted the opportunity to respond to a lecture from Dr. Elizabeth Conde-Frazier. Néstor Medina, a fellow HTI awardee from Toronto School of Theology, Canada, was responding to essayist Richard Rodríguez.

Yes, I was nervous, but it was an opportunity for intellectual public dialogue that I had not been afforded previously. Boston College, on St. Patrick's Day weekend, and this Jersey Rican was speaking and learning, critiquing and being critiqued, what a blessing! Now my response is on its way to publication in *Perspectivas: Occasional Papers*. A week or two after returning to seminary, a homiletics professor stopped me after chapel to speak to me. She said, "Gabriel, I heard you gave a response paper at Boston College. One of my colleagues was there and just went on and on about the whole event, and how great it was." Behold, the power of HTI connections; it has friends and ears everywhere.

Gabriel Salguero

*HTI 2003-2004 Special Mentoring awardee
Union Theological Seminary*

ON THE BENEFITS OF MENTORING AND EDITORIAL SUPPORT

I cannot say enough good things about HTI! As I listen to the stories of my friends who are completing doctoral studies, I realize the blessings I have received through HTI. Through the mentoring program, I received assistance on ways to streamline my time as a doctoral student and how to show my professors that I am a serious student. Furthermore, my HTI mentors assisted me through the common pitfalls of most students. My mentors took my work seriously and challenged me to not only strive to do my best, but to excel. My professors at Catholic University were aware of the support I was receiving through HTI, which I believed helped them to recognize my commitment to academic study and professional writing. Because of the editorial support and challenge to write well, I know that I have greatly improved my writing and analytical skills.

I believe the relationships we have made through HTI are life-giving and academically supportive and challenging. My HTI colleagues are part of an ecumenical support group that does not allow us to remain isolated in an "ivory tower." We challenge each other to remain faithful to *La Raza* and to our professional commitments that serve the Latina/o community. I am most excited about these relationships because they did not end when I finished my studies, rather my relationships will carry me through the challenges of an academic career in which there are few Latinas and few support systems. Thank you HTI!! ¡Muchísimas gracias!

Theresa Lynn Torres

*HTI 2001-2002 Dissertation year awardee
Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, Benedictine College*

OH, AND THEN THERE'S THE SCHOLARSHIP MONEY

I do not find it easy to state, in only one or two paragraphs, the many blessings that have come of my association with the Hispanic Theological Initiative. But all the blessings I could state grow out of social and scholarly networking opportunities afforded me through my participation in HTI mentoring programs. In the last year I have attended three HTI conferences, and received two visits from a Latino scholar HTI appointed to mentor me. He has been a truly amazing mentor, scholar, and friend. I have networked with HTI-affiliated Latino doctoral students and scholars at national conferences on religion, and carried on innumerable conversations by phone and email with Latino theologians.

Before I was received into the HTI comunidad, my scholarly work was heading toward an engagement with Latino theology. But that rendez-vous has been accelerated through my connections with Latina and Latino scholars in the HTI orbit. They have pushed me to ground my questions about how the international political economy shapes the religious lives of Latinos and other minorities in the U S - in more explicit dialogue with the methods and themes of Latina/o theology. My culminating comprehensive exam and my dissertation will seek to widen the horizon of Latino theology through an engagement with transnational and inter-cultural approaches pursued in the secular disciplines of cultural and ethnic studies.

But association with HTI has allowed me to respond more effectively to a still deeper calling — one of the spirit. I am a twice-uprooted Cuban-American, raised by exiled Cuban parents in U S cities outside any communities of the Cuban or Latino diaspora. All my adult life I have struggled to awaken my latent Cuban soul from a hibernation of cultural estrangement. Of the many steps I have taken in this direction, participating in HTI's mentoring and networking programs has been one of the most productive and rewarding.

Oh, and then there's the scholarship money.

Jorge Aquino

*HTI 2003-2004 Special Mentoring awardee
Graduate Theological Union*

A TREASURE FIELD TO BE EXPLORED AND EXPLOITED: PTS LATIN AMERICAN PERIODICAL COLLECTION

Luis N. Rivera-Pagán

Last October, a friend died in Puerto Rico and I was asked to go home and preach a memorial homily to celebrate his life of commitment to the Reign of God. Drafting the sermon, I remembered that a small book, published 1965 in Río Piedras, Puerto Rico, included a contribution of his on theological education in Latin America. I went to Princeton Theological Seminary (PTS) library and, eureka! there was a copy of the book. It also happens to be the first book ever edited by Justo L. González.

Three years ago, I had to write a lecture on Oscar Arnulfo Romero, for Drew's Hispanic theological program. I found then that PTS library has one of the best bibliographical collections on the martyr Archbishop. This year, I devoted my inaugural address as PTS Henry Winters Luce Professor of Ecumenics to the last writings of Bartolomé de las Casas. PTS library, as Gustavo Gutiérrez discovered when he was visiting professor several years ago, has excellent sources on the sixteenth-century Christianization of the Americas. Its periodical collection of Latin American ecclesiastical and theological matters is probably the best in the United States and certainly one of the best in the world. It includes journals one did not even know existed!

There are historical reasons for the wealth of this collection. As always in history, there are names to be remembered, administrators like John A. Mackay, PTS President from 1936 to 1959, who was fluent in Spanish, had traveled and worked for a good number of years in Latin America and Spain, and had written a dissertation on Unamuno; scholars like Richard Shaull, PTS Professor of Ecumenics from 1962 to 1980, fluent in Spanish and Portuguese, and well known and respected through Latin America. Enrique Dussel has rightfully considered him one of the antecessors of Latin American liberation theology. They made the right decisions to make sure that PTS library would be home to a splendid Latin American bibliographical collection.

PTS library has shown its serious engagement to house and preserve a rich and diverse Latin American ecclesiastical and theological bibliographical collection. During the last years, under the influence of the growing US Hispanic/Latina/o theologies and some of its institutional expressions, like the Hispanic Theological Initiative and the Hispanic Summer Program, the collection has expanded to include matters regarding the US Hispanic/Latina/o churches. It houses, for example, the latest doctoral

dissertations written by Hispanic theologians.

Alas! This seems to be unbeknownst to many students, professors, researchers, and ministers with interest in the variegated field of Latin American and Hispanic/Latina/o religiosities. The good news is that it is there; the bad news is that it is there. It is a treasure field waiting to be explored and exploited. What is a library for? A paradisiacal labyrinth to lose one's way and, in the process, find oneself, would Jorge Luis Borges reply.

Dr. Rivera-Pagán, HTI 2000-2001 mentor and the Henry Luce Professor of Ecumenics and Mission at Princeton Theological Seminary.

The Seminary homepage address is www.ptsem.edu. To access the library catalog from the Seminary homepage, click on the word "Grow" on the right side of the page. Then click on the library icon. Next, click on the phrase "Library Catalog." Finally, click on the icon that says "local catalog." The default screen is set for a simple search. Click on the words "Call number" and then key in the acronym for the Latin American Periodical Collection, which currently functions as a call number: LAP. The result will be a listing of our titles in alphabetical order.



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